

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 and 25-29 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1, 6, 7, 9, 12, 14, 18, 23 and 25 are amended for further clarity. No new matter is added.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Ma in the July 14, 2008 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interview is incorporated into the following remarks.

In the Office Action, claims 1-8, 10-21, 23 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Application Publication No. US2002/0080362 to Dubin. Additionally, claims 9 and 18-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dubin in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,139,793 to Bradford. These rejections are respectfully traversed.¹

Independent claims 1, 12, 23 and 25 are amended for further clarity. In particular, claims 1, 12, 23 and 25 are amended to clarify that the displays are external output displays separated by a seam area that cannot display output information. As discussed, aspects of the claims are directed to display of a contiguous virtual display using discontiguous displays separated by a seam area. This is achieved through adjustment of the layout of the output information that takes into account the seam area in the discontiguous output external displays. For example, when trying to display the contiguous virtual display image 1100 in Fig. 10 using two discontiguous display screens 731 and 732 separated by a seam 751 that is not capable of displaying output, it is oftentimes difficult to read or understand the display message because contextual information is lost when the display is split and separated (see the bottom half of Fig. 10 where intermediate words of the sentence are split among two adjacent displays or Fig. 14 where a table is split among two displays). This problem can be solved by knowledge of the seam area, the output information and an adjustment in the layout

¹ Applicants presume that the 102(b) rejection was intended to refer to claims 1-8, 10-17, 23 and 25 because claims 18-22 are separately rejected based on 103(a).

to accommodate the seam. For example, in Fig. 11, a repetition area or overlapping area 1404 can be defined and text or objects in this area are adjusted in the layout to be repeated in both adjacent displays as shown. This provides contextual information for the viewer (paragraph [0073]). Alternatively, as shown in Figs. 9 and 15, the problem can be solved by adjusting the layout so that objects, such as table columns, that originally extend across two displays are adjusted to be moved off the seam area and into a single one of the external output displays.

As discussed during the interview, Dubin has no appreciation of this problem.

Instead, Dubin is directed to a modular and scalable seamless tiled display apparatus including multiple display devices, a screen, and multiple lens assemblies (abstract). According to Dubin, each internal display device 10 is sub-divided into multiple sections 32, each configured to internally display a sectional image. Thus, there are original discontiguous image portions which are then adjusted to form a contiguous output display. As discussed, one of the lens assemblies is optically coupled to each of the sections 32 to project a sectional image displayed on that section onto an external contiguous display screen 16 (paragraphs 25-28 and Fig. 1). According to Dubin, this results in a seamless tiled image on output display screen 16 where gap 30 (seams) between adjacent display devices 32 are eliminated. Moreover, images appearing in dead-band regions (areas between each pair of adjacent sections 32) are not projected onto the screen 16.

As previously noted in Applicant's disclosure, such systems as disclosed in Dubin require additional lens hardware components and do not work well with larger seam sizes because they depend on optically bending of the image on either side of the seam (see Applicant's paragraph 5).

Moreover, Dubin fails to disclose or suggest determining a composite display comprising at least two external displays, each display being separated from an adjacent

display by a seam area and associated with a view into a contiguous virtual display space as recited in independent claims 1, 12, 23 and 25.

Moreover, with Dubin's lens assembly, the adjustment is based solely on the positions of the internal display devices 32 and does not take into consideration actual output information in conjunction with seam information as recited in independent claims 1, 12, 23 and 25. However, with the claimed layout adjustment, adjustment can take into account the actual image output information. For example, as discussed above, if an element covers a seam area, the object may be readjusted so that it is moved off of the seam to be provided on a single display (Figs. 9 and 15). Alternatively, if an element of the output information covers a seam area, a repetition area may be defined around the seam and output information within this area repeated on both adjacent displays (Figs. 10 and 14).

Because Dubin fails to disclose or provide a reason to include the above features, Dubin fails to teach each and every feature recited in independent claims 1, 12, 23 and 25. Accordingly, these claims and claims dependent therefrom, distinguish over Dubin. Branson fails to overcome the deficiencies of Dubin with respect to at least the independent claims.

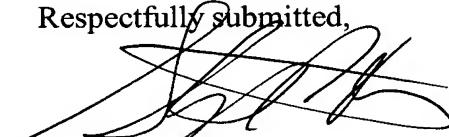
Moreover, with respect to dependent claims 7 and 18, neither Dubin nor Branson teach layout adjustment that moves an overlapping seam object off of the seam area to be displayed on only one of the displays, or defines a repetition area and repeats the output information in this area on two adjacent displays. Accordingly, claims 7 and 18 are allowable for their dependence on an allowable base claim and for the additional features recited therein.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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